

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

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O R 231425Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6374

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) ATHENS 8726, B) ATHENS 8723

1. VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN NEW
YORK CONCERNING THE SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) DEBATE AND AN
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)
THAT TURKEY HAS BEEN INVITED TO STATE ITS CASE TO THE COURT
TODAY (AUGUST 23) DOMINATE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE AEGEAN
DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. MUCH OF THE MEDIA
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INDICATES THAT THE CONSULTATIONS AT THE UNSC OVER THE DRAFT

RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE U.S., BRITAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY HAVE REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE. HOWEVER, A DEGREE OF EDGINESS HAS CREPT INTO THE REPORTING AS TO WHAT THE OUTCOME MAY BE. AT THE SAME TIME THERE ARE SOME PREDICTIONS THAT THE UNSC MAY CONVENE THIS AFTERNOON, OR TOMORROW, TO CONSIDER THE RESOLUTION.

2. IN THIS REGARD, SOME NEWSPAPERS NOTE THE NEED FOR A BALANCED RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES; ON THE OTHER HAND, LEFTIST, PRO-PASOK ATHINAIKI TOOK AN EXTREME POSITION IN ITS HEADLINE "RUSSIA AND THE U.S. WILL EXERCISE VETO IN FAVOR OF TURKEY IF CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION IS APPROVED." MANY HEADLINES REFER TO THE ICJ'S INVITING TURKEY TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING ON THE AEGEAN QUESTION SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS WEEK, WITH SOME IMPLYING TURKEY IS BEING SUMMONED BY THE COURT WHILE OTHERS CLAIM TURKEY IS WARY AS TO WHAT APPROACH TO ADOPT. SENATOR MONDALE'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT SENT TO THE GREEKA-AMERICAN AHEPA ORGANIZATION LIKEWISE RECEIVED WIDE PLAY IN THE GREEK MEDIA.

3. OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, THE PRESS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE CLARIFICATION BY ANKARA THAT TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S COMMENT ON THE "AEGEAN ISLANDS" (REFTEL B) WAS A REFERENCE TO THE ISLANDS' GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO IMPINGE ON GREEK SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS. ALSO REPORTED WAS THAT THE TURKISH RESEARCH VESSEL SISMİK I AGAIN VIOLATED THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED. SOME ATTENTION WAS ADDRESSED TO THE DETENTION OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WITH THE EARLIER BURNINGS OF A MOSQUE AND TWO MOSLEM SCHOOLS IN NORTHEASTERN GREECE AND THE PREVENTIVE STEPS THE GOG IS TAKING IN THIS REGARD. PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER LEADER MAVROS ALSO GAINED NOTICE OVER THE WEEKEND BY VOICING GRUDGING APPROVAL OF FORMER TURKISH PREMIER ECEVIT FOR THE LATTER'S CRITICISM OF DEMIREL'S "IRRESPONSIBLE" STATEMENT ON THE AEGEAN ISLANDS. FINALLY, THE GOVERNMENT PUT A DAMPER, AS LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, IN AN ATTEMPT BY SOME ELEMENTS IN THE OPPOSITION TO PUCH THE IDEA OF A MEETING OF ALL PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE GREEK-TURKISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISPUTE AND DETERMINE THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO TO.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTES, INVITATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS08805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760321-0713
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760830/aaaaaztb.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 8726, 76 ATHENS 8723
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006